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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES : OCI #0553/74
4 March 1974

ROMANIA

Elena Elevated

The inclusion of Elena Ceausescu in a group of new full-members selected by the prestigious Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania last Friday continues the trend of increased visibility for the President's wife, whose field is given as chemistry. By-passing the usual corresponding-member stage, her rise, in an area where many consider her credentials questionable at best, has been meteoric. The simultaneous selection of several of the country's great and near-great may, indeed, have been done to head off charges of nepotism. Among the 34 new members are party leaders Manea Manescu and Miron Constantinescu.

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BULGARIA

Premier Todorov to India

Bulgarian Premier Stanko Todorov left yesterday for a seven-day official visit to India at the invitation of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Although ties are not extensive, the two countries exchange high level visits occasionally. Indian President V. V. Giri paid a state visit to Bulgaria in October 1970; party boss Todor Zhivkov last visited India in January 1969.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Renewed Buzzing Around the Austrian Border

On March 1, a Czechoslovak jet trainer penetrated 10 KM inside the Austrian border and buzzed an Austrian army helicopter three times. The final pass forced the 'copter to land. A few hours later, another jet penetrated 5 KM inside Austria in the same area. Relations between the two countries were at a low point last summer after the

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Czechoslovaks forced two Austrian planes to crash, Vienna withdrew its minister to Prague and did not return him until December. The improvement in relations was set back recently as a consequence of the Austrian TV interview with ex-General Sejna in regard to Communist plans to invade Austria.

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